

1           DELEGATE KOSS: I think it is since 1851 but  
2 it might have been earlier than that that the Maryland  
3 Constitution has included some basis for the disqualifi-  
4 cation of voting. It is very hard to get figures in  
5 terms of number of people affected by these provisions  
6 because in amplification of one question asked Delegate  
7 Bothe, I think indeed certain persons who are not  
8 convicted of crimes which render them immediately  
9 disqualified could apply for absentee ballot and vote.

10           But there are, I think, in addition to the  
11 fact that some question as to whether or not people have  
12 been deprived of their civil rights in terms of prisons;  
13 there is also the whole question of whether people who  
14 seek to subvert the electoral process should be permitted  
15 to participate therein. This gives the General  
16 Assembly the broad flexibility and doesn't limit them in  
17 the definition of serious crime. As far as persons  
18 adjudicated non compos mentis or mental incompetents,  
19 whatever language you want to use, I agree lots of  
20 people walking around are probably less competent to vote  
21 in elections than people adjudicated. The problem is